Reviewing the newspapers, it

to go see because of the

The holidays are rapidly approaching and the major studios like "Santa Claus: The Movie," "One Magic Christmas," and "Rainbow Brite," which are designed to capitalize on the fact that children will be out of school for extended periods of time and will need to be entertained.

in "Santa," playing Patch, Santa's impish assistant whose modern Big Bad Wolf, who is played by

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Burrell is one of the original stars marriage.



dy. His creative genius is being veteran actor Burgess Meredith are attractive to play." exploited by B.Z., a villain in the who has appeared in "Batman" "Santa Claus: The Movie" is an

assembly line methods place the wisest and most respected of it's got childlike elements of intradition of Christmas in jeopar- Santa's helpers, who is played by nocence and eagerness which

tradition of Captain Hook and the and numerous other productions. Alexander and Ilya Salkind pro-Describing what it is like to duction, a movie made by the John Lithgow. B.Z. is a sinister play an elf, Dudley Moore of "10" same team that produced "Supertoymaker whose character is the and "Arthur" fame, says I play man," "Superman II," and "Supervery antithesis of the genial and Patch, a perky elf who dominates man III," plus "supergirl." It will a miraculous experience. Ginnie absolutely nothing for very young kindhearted elf who symbolizes Santa's workshop at the North open in area theatres during is somewhat of a contemporary children to go see, To add insuit the Christmas spirit. Santa is pole until differences of opinion Thanksgiving weekend on Scrooge and the story is very to injury, a lot of parents have played by David Huddleston who force him to leave a Utopian en- November 27. Making Santa portrays the character as a sim- vironment to make his mark on "Santa" was a fairly difficult task ple woodcutter who is trans- the world. It's quite a difficult that required ample special efformed into the legendary figure. character because one doesn't fects, including making reindeer The other major character in the have experience of elves. On the fly, a task that is a trifle harder movie is the Ancient Elf, the other hand, it's very nice because than making men soar through

Harry Dean Stanton, who is presence of the Fat Boys, Run Wednesday and Saturday Luke," and "The Rose," gets to this time of the year because

tional information call 685-1460. For tickets and performance

-"Dreamgirls" Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m. Deena -- and now stars again as matinees at 2:00 p.m., special shed his tough guy image in this there are a number of movies musical story of three young girls Deena, the lead Dream who has Thursday matinees Dec. 26 and flick by portraying a Christmas that one can comfortably take from Chicago who start out sing- it all, fame, fortune and ultimate- Jan. 2 at 2:00 p.m., Sundays Dec. angel. "As Gideon, I help one children to without fear of their ing backup for a rhythm and ly heartbreak. Lawrence Clayton 15 and Dec. 22 at 3:00 p.m., and person a year to get into the tender ears being bombarded blues star and end up as solid comes direct from his role as C.C. Sunday, Dec. 29 at 2:00 and 7:30 Christmas spirit," says Stanton. "I with profanity and their eyes begold superstars -- The Dreams -- White on Broadway, LueCinda p.m. There are no performances believe, as does the character of ing accosted with sexually sugwho come face to face with the RamSeur plays Michelle, the new Dec. 16, Dec. 24, Dec. 25, or Jan. Jack (Ginnie's husband) in the gestive images like those found consequences of success. The girl. Herbert L. Rawlings, Jr. stars 1 matinee. show is personalized history of as James Thunder Early, the Two benefit performances of in the nice spirit that gets into the posedly youth-oriented flicks.

pop music from the early '60s to singer who has "gotta have soul" "Dreamgirls" are scheduled. Cop- air around Christmas time. This "Rainbow Brite," an animated in his music. Larry Stewart plays pin State College will sponsor the film is trying to distill the spirit of cartoon, is another excellent In addition to its six Tony the faithful agent, Marty, a role evening performance of Wednes- Christmas while attacking com- movie that you might want to Awards, "Dreamgirls" is the reci- he played on Broadway, and day, December 11 as a benefit mercialism. That's why I enjoy take your children to during the pient of two Drama Desk Awards Weyman Thompson recreates his for the college's scholarship fund. playing Gideon, a cowboy who holidays. It is already playing at and two Grammy Awards, in- Broadway role as Curtis, the man For tickets and additional infor- became an angel because he some of the suburban movie who brings the success and pain mation call 383-3153. The YWCA selflessly saved the life of a houses. Sharon Brown plays Effie, the to all. Arnetia Walker reprises of Greater Baltimore has taken difficult Dream who sings the her role of Lorrell, the Dream the Wednesday evening — Jazz show-stopper "And I Am Telling who knows it "Ain't No Party" in December 18 performance for its You, I'm Not Going." Deborah her quest for career and fundraiser. For tickets and addi-

of "Dreamgirls" on Broadway -- "Dreamgirls opens Tuesday, she created the role of Michelle December 10 at 7:30 p.m. Perforschedule call (301) 625-1400. and most recently appeared as mances thereafter are Monday -

(L to R) LueCinda RamSeur, Deborah Burrell, musical "Dreamgirls" opening December 10 Sharon Brown, and Arnetia Walker find it at the Lyric Opera House. "Hard To Say Goodbye" in Michael Bennett's

the children will be fascinated by the story, the adults will no doubt take some pleasure in watching quickly becomes apparent that the highly sophisticated special there is a drought of movies for effects and filming techniques children, even teenagers. Virthat are integral components of tually every movie on the market "Santa Claus: The Movie." is chack full of violence and gore

Walt Disney Pictures' entry in- with Charles Bronson blowing to the Thanksgiving/Christmas away dozens of people in holiday film fare is "One Magic "Deathwish III," a monster Christmas," a story about a little named Freddy Kreuger slicing up girl's exciting adventure which people in "Nightmare on Elm enables her to help rekindle her- Street II," and violent murders mother's spirit of hope. Mary being portrayed in "To Live and Steenburgen, an Academy Die in L.A.," "Target," and Award-winning actress, stars as "Jagged Edge." Furthermore, Ginnie Grainger, a disillusioned most of the movies now playing young woman who learns the in the theatres are rated "R" or true meaning of Christmas after at least "PG-12," which leaves much like "A Christmas Carol" in been shocked at the profanity in that Ginnie undergoes a number. "Krush Groove," a movie that virof experiences which recall the tually every black youth old dream sequences Scrooge under- enough to turn on a radio wants went in the classic movie.

best known for his characteriza- DMC and other popular recording tions of villains in movies like artists. "The Godfather II," "Cool Hand So it is a pleasure to come to film, in Santa Claus, or at least in "Krush Groove" and other sup-

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rangements, don't have too much scheduled to bow in on Dec. 4-8. word on some of the logistics involved in the presentation.

Jackson will be heading up an However, was talking with Earl all-star group consisting of Ray Arnett, who tells me that there Brown, bass; Cedar Walton, will be room for only 90 people for the event. Tickets will go for \$100 each, and will be on a firstcome, first-served basis.

Also, on tap at Ethel's is Ethel's place, she is on tap George Shearing, the blind through next week:

-On Stage

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made the scene ring false.

quate job. Ms Sandra Meekens dialogue. was too young looking to portray The three young ladies who Irma's mother, unless Irma was portrayed Kwli's wives Nicole the product of a teen mother. She Wainwright, Towanda Smith and was a bit too fidgety on stage, Ericka Wynn were all very lovely moving too much around the and very good in their cameo aproom and moving too much in pearance, although it is likely front of the mirror.

Verna Day's Clytie suffered having wives that young.

each other, but there was a from the same excessive movedistance and hesitancy of touch ment and the two actresses in their seduction scene that threw away some lines or glossed over them when they could The two Clyties did an ade- have gotten more out of their

pianist who continues to amaze

with his facile pianistics. He's

piano, and Mickey Roker, drums.

the many fans who have been

saying they want to hear Ethel at

Might point out that some of

Then on Dec. 11-15, Milt

that Kwli would be locked up for

RALPH MACDONALD "Surprize" (Polydor

Here's the fifth solo album by a well-known percussionist who's been making music for more than 20 years, having written and produced music for such artists as Roberta Flack and Grover

MacDonald's career as a solo artist began with the release of 1977's "Sound Of A Drum" on Marlin. This was the album that featured the hit singles "Jam On The Groove" and "Calypso Breakdown." The latter single was included in the very popular "Saturday Night Fever" sound-

MacDonald brings us another bright, upbeat R&B showcase with "Laying in His Arms," the first single from "Surprize." It features newcomer Yogi Lee, a newcomer discovered by Ralph's son Anthony, on vocals.

Some listeners who have enjoyed Ralph's previous work may be glad to hear such notable talents as guitarist Eric Gale on the jazz-flavored "Charlo," a tune dedicated to the late Rudolph "Charlo" Charles, a well-known steel drum player.

The album's title track is an instrumental, with lots of congas, bongos and percussion courtesy Gadd; overall, this composition sounds like a mellowed rendition from one of Herbie Hancock's late 70's albums.

Other cuts: "One Life To Live,"





"You Need More Calypso," "Kiss And Make Up."

L.L. COOL J. "Radio" (Def Jam)

In the solo male rap category of Ralph and drummer Steve of modern music (a category which also includes, among others, Kurtis Blow and Spoonie The Best Of Wilson Pickett Gee) is this debut album by one (Atlantic) L.L. Cool J., whom you rap fans have heard before if you bought "Santa Cruz," "Just Hold Me," a copy of his recent 12-inch "I still dig the music they were

Now that the Def Jam label being distributed by Columb Records; all of us can enjoy an LPfull of some of the freshest beats around by this man. Among these fresh beats are the two tracks on Cool J.'s latest single, "I Can Give You More" and "I Can't Live Without My Radio." from 1966 ("Na na na na" and all uptempo drum-machine-backed raps. Perfect for any "yo" party.

Thanks to the one they call for "Don't Knock My Love," Jazzy J., there's more scratching and fresh mixing in the new Sugar" or "Don't Let The Green remix of "I Need A Beat" included in this LP.

Sure, many non-rap fans will tire of this stuff quickly, but for the "Krush Groove" crowd it right on time.

Other cuts: "Dear Yvette," "Dangerous," "Rock The Bells, "You'll Rock," "I Want You."

WILSON PICKETT

And then there are those who

there were Fat Boys. So why not remember how wonderful the sound of Wilson Pickett was, with twelve of his most popular recordings collected on one LP.

Now, Mr. Pickett has had quite a few top-40 hits on the R&B and pop charts, so this collection is by no means complete.

No way could you call this the Vice" — starts biting into your best of Wilson Pickett if it didn't ratings as if they were overripe have his first top-40 pop hit, "In grapes. What do you do? The Midnight Hour" from 1965, or You go for the outrageous. "634-5789 (Soulsville, U.S.A.)" And that's exactly what CBS has

Also, we get "Funky Broadway" (1967) and one of his biggest hits, "Land Of 1,000 Dances"

Too bad they didn't have room "Engine Number 9." "Sugar Grass Fool You." When's the last time you heard the full-length versions of these?

You probably already recall that "In The Midnight Hour" was also a hit for a group called Cross Country, and "Sugar Sugar" was first a big hit for The Archies. But did you know that The Spinners did a jazz version of "Don't Let done by parachuting Apollonia The Green Grass Fool You" on Kotero into California's Tuscany their 1973 "The Spinners" album, Valley. In weeks to come, which also included "Could It Be Apollonia, best known for her

Will Apollonia reign on her first series?

By Gillian George

Imagine you're one of the casting honchos on "Falcon Crest." Then, one day, another series - let's say NBC's "Miami



Apollonia Kotero

I'm Falling In Love"? Huh? Huh? role as Prince's love interest in the film "Purple Rain," will dramatically enter the life of grieving widower Lance Cumson

> On the series, Apollonia, 26, is staying close to home. She plays a rock singer named Apollonia, sings her own songs and wears flashy outfits from her own wardrobe. In other words, she's doing it her way.

Patricia Kotero, as she is legally named, or Apollonia Kotero, as her baptismal certificate reads, has been resolutely doing musicians; back-up singers According to Marsalis, "the things her way for most of her since the spring of the year. Jazz saxophonist Branford Dolette McDonald and Janice best musicians always steal from life. She was born in Santa In the Black community, the Marsalis hopes Black audiences Pendarvis have toured previous- the best, I steal from Thelonius Monica, Calif., and raised in Monk. Sting steals from Black Southern California locations. have begun to be heard. Chief the A&M Films release which Sting, whose music with The music sources and not because Some of Apollonia's fondest composer, lyricist and vocalist for the overwhelmingly popular at work between Sting and the overwhelmingly popular at work bearth at the overwhelmingly popular at work between Sting and the - are of living behind the MGM studios in Los Angeles. When she was six, Apollonia claims to have regularly climbed through her bedroom window, sneaked in a back studio entrance and wandered among the lavish sets

> Apollonia admits that "Purple Rain" and its creator, Prince, were her launching pad to stardom. Although she refuses to discuss her personal relationship with the rock 'n' roller, Apollonia admits "he gave me a very important break. Now, the rest is up to me."

"Bring on the Night" Pays Tribute To Jazz

and who have toured with him for the next year.

name Sting may only recently will go see "Bring on the Night," ly with Sting and The Police.

"Bring on the Night" is a and perform his own works. The band, comprised of Mar- "Dream of the Blue Turtles"

90-minute film tribute to the In January 1985, Sting gave an salis and keyboardist Kenny and tour. Marsalis, Hakim, Jones original American art form -- "open invitation" to the American Kirkland (who both performed in and Kirkland were simply chosen jazz. The film has the power to ig- jazz community to come and play Wynton Marsalis' band), Omar due to the chemistry and strength nite and delight audiences as with him in a workshop he set up Hakim (formerly the drummer for of their personalities and the they meet Sting and the in New York. By the end of the Weather Report), and bassist high caliber of their musicianship dynamically talented Black jazz sessions. Sting had found the Darryl Jones (who played with -- all of which comes across loud musicians who are featured on four musicians with whom he Miles Davis) are viewed as four and clear. his "Dream of the Blue Turtles" LP wanted to record and play live of the jazz idiom's finest young





